

PATENT
450100-02912REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At paragraph 1 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the title is not descriptive. Applicant has submitted a new title, and therefore requests that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

At paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-8 and 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As will be described below, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 15-17 are in condition for allowance, and therefore Applicant declines the opportunity to write these dependent claims in independent form.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 9-10 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,891). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In the rejection, the Examiner has indicated that the element set forth at the third paragraph of claim 1, namely "model adaptation means for performing an adaptation of said predetermined model on the basis of the extracted data in said predetermined interval and the degree of freshness representing the recentness of the extracted data" is shown in Takahashi et al. at column 12, lines 20-31. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Takahashi et al.

This portion of Takahashi et al. describes that the speech data is regarded to correspond to a model created by the concatenation of phoneme models according to its uttered contents.

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The correspondence between speech signal periods of the training data and each phoneme model is determined under the condition of maximizing the likelihood (a kind of score representing similarity for the training data TD) of a match therebetween. However, there is no discussion of any type of "freshness" factor set forth in claim 1.

This freshness factor is described in the specification of the present application as filed at page 24, line 28 – page 25, line 30, and the subsequent text. As is described in this portion of the specification, freshness refers to the recency of the acquired data. As is explained, the more remote in time a non-speech data has been acquired, the less likely it is a reliable measure of the actual present non-speech data. This is because a person may move locations, or the ambient noise at a particular location may change. Therefore, in accordance with the freshness of the acquired data, and consequently the non-speech noise data, and the level to which this data should be determined to be accurate is weighted so that the more recently acquired data is considered to be a more accurate representation than data that is older.

Applicant submits that Takahashi et al. fails to discuss any freshness issue associated with data acquisition, and indeed timing and weighting of various factors is not discussed at all. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2, 9, 10 and 14 depend from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable for this reason alone and additionally as presented in independently patentable combination in and of their own right. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) similarly be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a diligent effort to explain why claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue a Notice of Allowance regarding these claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney in order to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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